

needed to learn by experience what he was in himself.

If we notice all that Christ did, we shall see how He was watching at this time over Peter; His grace (so to speak) went out to meet him, and took care of Him all through the temptation.

The first thing that Jesus tells him is that He has prayed for him. It is not that Peter's repentance led to Jesus' intercession, but the intercession of Jesus brought about Peter's repentance. "I have prayed for thee," and "Jesus looked upon Peter." As to Judas, he betrayed the Lord, and when his conscience was awakened, he killed himself. But, here, the effect of the prayer of Jesus was to preserve faith at the bottom of Peter's heart, so that when Jesus looked on him, he was broken down.

The first thing to remark is, that the Lord had prayed for Peter; and the second, that He always remembered His disciple, and as soon as the cock crowed, Jesus looked on him and Peter wept bitterly. It is in this way the Lord deals with us, He prays for us and allows us to go into temptation. If He conducts us when in it, He also bids us pray that we enter not into temptation: but God permits all this because He sees the need of it.

If Peter had been conscious of his own weakness, he would not have dared to show himself before the High Priest. This trial was the natural consequence of what he was in the flesh: but it was God's purpose to use him, and even put him in a